

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Outcome/Program: 1.1.2 National Security and International Policy

Topic: National Security Statement

Senator: Senator Ryan

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Question:

Senator RYAN: Has that been due to the lack of a direction from the Prime Minister to the department to prepare a statement? That would be the normal course of events, wouldn't it? That the Prime Minister would direct the department to prepare a statement of that order?

[...]

Senator Chris Evans: Perhaps to help you out: as I understand it, it is a matter of fact there has only been one national security statement, which was in December 2008, as you said? I think that is right. As to the questions about any advice between the Prime Minister and PM&C, we will take that on notice.

Senator RYAN: Do you have an answer as to why there has been no subsequent statement representing the Prime Minister here?

Senator Chris Evans: No. As you know, the former Prime Minister made a statement. I am not aware as to why his intention to continue that has not been pursued, but I point out that the Prime Minister has made a number of statements to parliament about our engagement in Afghanistan as a way of trying to share information about the progress of our engagement there with the parliament and the Australian people. But, as to the intentions regarding our national security statement more broadly, I will have to take that on notice.

Answer:

The Prime Minister intends to deliver a National Security Statement in 2012.